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Montreal inside out

Antiquing in the Eastern Townships

By BETTY GUERNSEY

Ready for another sorties into the country?

During the month of August, the Eastern Townships is going to be THE place for antique (and theatre) buffs to be.

Those two indefatigable organizers, Ann Beaulieu and Mary Maysenhoelder, whom Montrealers will remember from the immensely popular North Hatley Antique Show of previous years, have decided to strike out on their own, and as Mary-anne Enterprises Reg'd, have put together the first-ever **"Tradition '75"** Antique Exposition and Sale, to take place from Thursday, August 14th to Saturday, August 16th in Norton Hall, Bibop's University, Lennoxville.

If "Tradition" is a success, the partners hope to turn it into an annual event, the best of its kind in Eastern Canada — so that eventually Lennoxville, now synonymous with summer theatre, will come to mean summer antiques as well.

With this goal in the back of their minds, they have limited the selection of antiques — mainly Early Canadiana — to pre-1860. Nineteen prominent dealers, 17 from Quebec, two from Ontario, have been hand-picked by Beaulieu and Maysenhoelder, and the standards have been strict. Items to be exhibited will include pine and traditional furniture, rare prints, china, glass and folk art. Preview and Sale, for which reservations are required, will take place Thursday, August 14th, 5-10 p.m., at $6 per person, which includes a Pioneer Country Buffet. For tickets, contact Mrs. Ann Beaulieu, 819-842-2643, or Mrs. Mary Maysenhoelder, 819-864-4746. (Tickets are already going quickly.)

The show will continue on Friday August 15th, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., and Saturday August 16th, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at which times admission will be $2 per person. Mme Jehane Benoit of nearby Noirmouton Farm near Knowlton will be there in person on Friday, and her daughter and son-in-law will be there with a booth for the full three days.

Once you're in Lennoxville, you could take in a play at Festival Lennoxville — also at Bishop's — or make a weekend of it and do some exploring. Bishop's University, dating from 1845, is an oasis of green with the St. Francis and Massawippi Rivers winding through. Lennoxville itself is an enchanting town, with boutiques to poke around in, a Wool Shop, Green's home bakery, the Red Lion Pub, and, of course, Nichol's on Queen Street — renowned throughout the Townships for its meat and bacon.

For antique buffs, there's enough antiquing in and around Lennoxville to keep the hardest-nosed collectors busy for several days. The list below mentions only some of them. Before you set out, however, stop at the Province of Quebec's Office of Tourism, 1 Place Ville Marie, and ask for their excellent Quebec highway map (it's free). Shops marked with an asterisk (*) are also exhibitors in the "Tradition '75" Lennoxville Show.

MacLeod's Antiques, 180 Queen St., Lennoxville. You can't miss it — three houses and two barns of beds, dressers, lamps, chairs, kettles, snowshoes, mirrors, old typewriters. Mr. and Mrs. Colin MacLeod started collecting ten years ago and just never stopped. The mind boggles at the thought of them ever taking an inventory.

Lennox Gift and Antique Shop, 249 Queen St., Lennoxville. The main floor is a gift shop, the basement is full of antiques. Owner Mr. Ruel has a good selection of glass and china.

Rod's Antiques, 265 Queen St., Lennoxville. Rod Lloyd, a former machinist, has a whole barn full of pine furniture, clocks, china, and old glass, some of it bordering on "nostalgia".

Homestead Antiques, Rock Forest, is an old farmhouse dating back 100 years. Proprietor Dolly Pepe specializes in glass, china, "primitives" (very early country furniture, accessories, appliances), and oak furniture.

Maurice Lemay, 56 Armstrong St., Sherbrooke. Lemay, a former butcher, has five rooms on the ground floor of his own home and a garage behind full of treasures — Portneuf pottery, walnut and mahogany furniture, carved wooden toys.*

Campbell's Antiques, Cookshire. Bill Campbell, a retired engineer, and his wife Betty deal in early Eastern Townships furniture, both in their own home — one of the oldest in Cookshire — and in the converted coach house behind.*

Jean's Antiques, RR5, Cookshire. Owner Jean Chute has a little bit of everything — glass, china, furniture, clocks, lamps. The shop is in a house and barn.

The Loft, Route 28, Bury. Proprietor Ronald Stokes has an impressive assortment of furniture, glass, china and primitives, both in his house and a couple of barns.

Mosher's Antiques, 946 Child St., Coaticook. Bert Mosher specializes in old coins, also has clocks, tools, pattern glass, china, and a garage full of furniture. He runs the bi-weekly Summer Flea Market in Ayer's Cliff every second Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

La Rose des Vents, North Hatley. Opened this summer in the old meat market, this new shop offers both antiques and handicrafts. Owners are Mr. and Mrs. Bourassa.

Flying Shuttle, North Hatley. Proprietor Emily LeBaron was the first dealer in North Hatley, as well as being the descendant of one of the town's first settlers. She specializes in glass, china, fine furniture and primitives.

The Lampshade Shop, North Hatley. Mrs. Ann Beaulieu has a shop of her own, where she makes silk and parchment lampshades, with antique bases such as old wig boxes, silver candlesticks or samovars.

Dumoulin's Antiques, Pleasant St., Ayer's Cliff. Young owners Brian and Joan Dumoulin raise Great Danes in addition to selling glass, Canadiana, some Victoriana, early Americana, rugs and quilts.*

The Horse's Mouth, Pleasant St., Ayer's Cliff. Owner Betty Kirby lives in a beautifully restored old white house, and sells handicrafts, stencilled furniture, china, glass and antiques in a barn behind.

Dust and Cobwebs Shop, 66 Dufferin Rd., Stanstead. One of the oldest buildings in Stanstead, once a grocery store. Proprietor Olga Audet has a shop in the store, mostly glass and china, and lives in the apartment above.

Yolande Van Zuiden, 795 Pine St., Magog. Exclusively glass and china. Mrs. Van Zuiden lives in a modern house, and runs her antique business in the basement.*

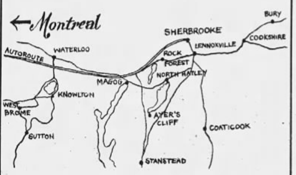
Shirley's Shoppe, 733 Western Ave., Waterloo. The owner, a retired schoolteacher, sells china, glass and furniture; her father does furniture repairs, including the re-caning and re-seating of chairs.

Griffon Antiques, Bolton Pass Road, Knowlton. English-born Bob West runs a shop in his own house and teaches school during the winter. He has glass, china and primitives.

The Lamplighter, West Brome. A long-established business; owner Margaret Stuart specializes in old glass, china and silver. The shop is in her own house, located on the main highway leading to Sutton.

Carr's Antiques, 44 South Main St., Sutton, beside the church. Mrs. Ola Carr sells china, glass, furniture, curios, old books and handcrafts, including hand-woven rugs and bedspreads; her husband does furniture refinishing.

Hawley's Antiques, 7 Western Ave., Sutton. Glass, china, copper, brass, furniture and reproductions, many imported from England.



Offenbach are scheduled to play at Place des Nations Aug. 10.

Quebec rocks this summer

By JUAN RODRIGUEZ
for The Gazette

Traditionally, summer is not the best time to launch new shows, but this year most of the well-known names of the Quebec pop-rock scene have been performing at vacation spots in the city and country.

At La Ronde, the Garden of Stars has featured a series of leading Quebecois rock groups every Friday and Saturday. With two shows nightly, and a beer licence, the atmosphere around the triangular stage has been mellow for such groups as Aut'Chose, Maneige and Toubabou last month.

The series producer, Kebec Spec, recently announced the line-up for August and, once again, some promising acts are being presented. This weekend there's Sloche, a quintet from Quebec specializing in "rock progressif," a melange of styles built around a heavy rock base. The group's first album, J'un oeil, is due at the end of September.

Morse Code, which had released a couple of albums before splitting up, are back together with their brand of heavy rock, and they're at the Garden on Aug. 8 and 9.

Octobre, with its thoughtful voluminous style "between Jean Ferré and John Lennon," follows on Aug. 15 and 16, while Nanette Workman, hot on the heels of local disco hits (Danser Danser and Lady Marmelade), closes the series on Aug. 22 and 23.

Meanwhile, Le Patriote in Ste. Agathe has presented a stream of the province's most popular entertainers.

This week firey chanteuse Pauline Julien holds court. Next week, fresh from appearances in Belgium at the Song Spa and France, Quebec's most popular pop group at the moment, Beau Dommage, previews songs from their forthcoming second album.

Impressionist Jean-Guy Moreau is booked from Aug. 12 to 17, followed by two weeks of the number one monologuist Yvon Deschamps with a preview of his new show which will run for two months at Place des Arts later in the fall.

Offenbach, the rock quintet which recently spent 16 months in France making their first film, entitled Tabernac, are scheduled to play the opening segment of the J. Geils Band show at Place des Nations on Aug. 10. At the same venue on Aug. 23, there's a "supershow" headlined by Beau Dommage, and also featuring Raoul Duguay, the province's veritable poet of the larynx, and Ti-Jean Carignan, one of the finest folkfiddlers in the world.

Starting in Laval tonight, the first in a series of 10 nightly packages of Quebecois musical stars: Jean-Pierre Ferland, Emmanuelle and Georges Langford. Each show spotlights a particular popular genre of music and thus the entire program will provide an excellent cross section of what's happening in the province's diverse music scene. The shows, celebrating the 10th anniversary of Laval, are being held in the Centre de la Nature, and admission is free.

Others in the series include Renee Claude, Julie Arel, and Cl mence Desrochers (Aug. 2); Toubabou, Octobre and Match (Aug. 3); Nanette, Mélodie Stewart, Michel Stax, and Diane Lee (Aug. 4); Renée Martel, Paolo Noel, and Fernand Gignac (Aug. 5); Willie Lamothe, Bobby Hachey, Jerry et Johanne, and Paul Brunelle (Aug. 6); Felix Leclerc, Lise Massé, Jacqueline Salvas, and Jim et Bertrand (Aug. 7); Gilles Valiquette, Priscilla, Francois Guy and Contraction (Aug. 9); and Claude Léveillé, Pauline Julien and Jean-Pierre Manseau (Aug. 10).

Musical oddity of decade

Low-key Whittaker defies pop world

By VERNON SCOTT
of UPI

HOLLYWOOD — The musical oddity of the decade is a bespectacled, rumpled English chemist who has defied the pop music world by standing straight and singing like a man.

He is Roger Whittaker, fortyish, with thinning hair, a neatly trimmed goatee and a mellow baritone.

A solid member of the Establishment, a qualified chemist and zoologist with a wife and four kids, Whittaker has been discovered by Americans without hoopla or publicity.

His passport to fame is "The Last Farewell," the ballad of an English sailor embarking for war.

YEARS AGO

"I recorded that song five years ago," said Whittaker on a trip to Hollywood, "and it's taken all this time to find an American audience.

"I'm truly surprised it's a success because it is so out of the ordinary.

"If you know and love England then the song really takes your heart. I was born in Kenya of English parents. I dearly love England and live in a 16th century house there."

The haunting melody of "The Last Farewell" is accompanied by lyrics which though clearly enunciated. Leave American listeners asking to which war the British sailor is off, and from what sun-drenched island he is departing.

"The song is set in the 1720s," Whittaker said, his rubicund face animated with enthusiasm for his subject. "The sailor is leaving the West Indies and must abandon a magnificent Caribbean beauty.

"We were at war with France for a hundred years, and the sailor had fought the French before."

While Whittaker has been a virtual unknown in the United States, his records have sold briskly in Canada, Europe, South America and Australia.

He's had as many as five hits on the English charts in the past. But to become a superstar a recording artist must click in the United States where records can sell in the millions.

Whittaker's style contrasts radically with the crashing sound of Elton John, the drug-oriented lyrics or hyped amplification of almost all pop groups.

He is unique even when compared with Sinatra, Andy Williams, Jack Jones and other straight vocalists.

"I sing a natural baritone because that's the way I was taught," he said. "The time is coming for people to hear the truth in lyrics. I like to go on TV warts and all. No costumes, no makeup, no gimmicks.

"There is too much falsity and pretention in pop music today. I hate it.

NOT LYRICS

"The people in the United States made 'The Last Farewell' a hit. I hope it isn't just a record people will find and then forget."

Whittaker wrote the music but not the lyrics to the song.

More than five years ago he starred on an English radio show, asking listeners to send in poems on lyrics which might be set to music. He promised to write music for the best of them and follow up with an album.

"Well, we got 100,000 answers in 12 weeks. I was amazed with the high quality of the offerings. After reading through every one of them I finally recorded 13 in an album.

"Four were hits. One of them was 'The Last Farewell.' The lyrics were written by Ron Webster, whom I'd never met. I called him just the other day to tell him our song was high on the American popularity charts.

"RCA informs me we are well on our way to selling a million singles in this country and the album is just catching on."

Word of mouth has been largely responsible for Whittaker's booming popularity. Disc jockeys on hot pop stations ignore him. But stations featuring standards and softer music are giving "The Last Farewell" a big play.

Whittaker writes his own songs. His choice of music, like his voice, is anything but square. In a day of acid rock, unintelligible lyrics and Alice Cooper, the cherubic Englishman is indeed a fresh breeze from Blighty.

Gazette, Steve Jensen

The U.S. has finally recognized Roger Whittaker.

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